



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR - 4 2018

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen:

Thank you for the letter of October 27, 2017, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding consideration of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) under the TSCA framework rules.

In your letter, you referenced the PFAS (which includes PFOA and PFOS) contamination at the former Pease Air Force Base. EPA took strong and swift action at Pease. Where PFOA and PFOS have been detected in drinking water, EPA has not hesitated to use its authority under the Safe Drinking Water Act to address imminent and substantial endangerment to public health. EPA is also using its authority under CERCLA to investigate historical releases of PFOA and PFOS at Superfund sites.

The releases of PFAS can be the result of the use of PFAS-containing firefighting foams, metal plating operations and facilities manufacturing or using PFAS. Other potential sources are being examined. EPA will continue to aggressively address current or potential future public health threats posed by PFOA and PFOS releases.

Regarding your concern with the risk evaluation of PFAS chemicals that are no longer manufactured or distributed, EPA believes TSCA is best suited to address ongoing or prospective manufacturing, processing, or distribution of chemicals.

As to evaluation of PFAS chemicals still being manufactured, processed, or distributed, TSCA, as amended, established a multi-step process for risk evaluations beginning with prioritization. The EPA promulgated a rulemaking codifying the TSCA chemical prioritization process on June 22, 2017, and is now engaged in public dialogue on how to identify chemicals as candidates for prioritization. In order to meet the statutory timeframes and rigorous scientific standards of the risk evaluation process, the EPA attempts to address data needs before initiating prioritization. It is likely that the EPA will need additional information on many of the large number of PFASs on the TSCA chemical inventory as part of any consideration of them as candidates for TSCA prioritization. To help obtain this additional information, the EPA is implementing a toxicity testing strategy for PFAS that will identify specific PFAS that may be priority candidates for toxicity studies.

Finally, the EPA recognizes the importance of ensuring effective coordination and prioritization of its efforts on PFAS chemicals. Toward this end, on December 4, 2017, the EPA announced a new cross-agency effort to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. The effort will identify a set of near-term actions the EPA will take to support local communities; enhance coordination with states, tribes and federal partners to provide communities with critical information and tools; increase ongoing research efforts to identify new methods for measuring these substances and filling data gaps; and expand proactive communications efforts with states, tribes, partners, and the American public about these substances and their health effects. The EPA believes these cross-program and cross-regional efforts will improve on-the-ground knowledge of these substances as the agency and its state and local partners work to address these issues nationwide.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Sven-Erik Kaiser in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at Kaiser.Sven-Erik@epa.gov or (202) 566-2753.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlotte Bertrand".

Charlotte Bertrand
Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator



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The Honorable Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hassan:

Thank you for the letter of October 27, 2017, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding consideration of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) under the TSCA framework rules.

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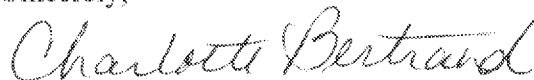
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The Honorable Carol Shea-Porter
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congresswoman Shea-Porter:

Thank you for the letter of October 27, 2017, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding consideration of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) under the TSCA framework rules.

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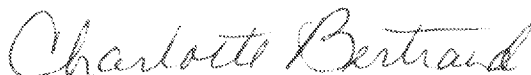
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The Honorable Ann McLane Kuster
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Kuster:

Thank you for the letter of October 27, 2017, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding consideration of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) under the TSCA framework rules.

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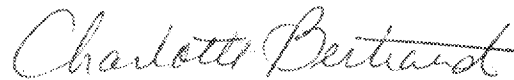
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